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FROM: LONDON

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2628, NOVEMBER 13, 3 PM

SENT DEPT 2628, RPTD INFO PARIS 342, BONN 100, MOSCOW 59.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY AND USRO

FONOFF ADVISES UK REPRESENTATIVE BERLIN HAS REPORTED FOLLOWING VIEWS:

AFTER NOTING THAT GROTEWOHL HAS WATERED DOWN KHRUSHCHEV'S THREATS, UK REPRESENTATIVE SAYS SEEMS NO QUESTION AT ALL AT PRESENT OF ANY INTERFERENCE WITH GERMAN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND WEST GERMANY. NEW BLOCKADE NOT IN PROSPECT. GROTEWOHL SPEECH STRENGTHENED IMPRESSION THAT IMMEDIATE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD ALLIES IN BERLIN UNLIKELY. UK REPRESENTATIVE BELIEVES THERE IS STILL SOME "PLAY" IN SITUATION AND THAT RUSSIANS AND GDR WILL WAIT TO TEST WESTERN REACTIONS AND PERHAPS POSSIBILITIES OF DRAWING WEST INTO DISCUSSION OF GERMAN QUESTION WITH GDR PARTICIPATION OR TO ATTEND SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN COMING MONTHS, BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO PROCEED. SOME SUCH TOKEN STEP AS FORMAL CLOSURE OF SOVIET MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN EAST BERLIN MAY BE TAKEN SOON BUT WOULD EXPECT SOVIETS TO DEVISE MEANS OF MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH ALLIES IN BERLIN EVEN IF THIS DID HAPPEN. HOWEVER, UK REPRESENTATIVE BERLIN DOES NOT BELIEVE RUSSIANS WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE UP TO PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES INDEFINITELY.

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